

# **A Basic Study Of Revelation**

## **It's All About Jesus**

### **Introduction**

This paper is intended only to establish a foundation upon which the individual student may further pursue knowledge and information. It is a composite view of several men's opinions. When looking into prophecy, error is quite easy. May we listen carefully to The Word and The Spirits interpretation of that Word. This study doesn't attempt to go into detail but rather we seek to find a truthful yet simple understanding of basics.

May we call special attention to the fact that The Bride of Christ, that body of born-again believers, those who go in the Rapture, will not be on earth during the Great Tribulation period. We must not let our mind become obsessed with fear at looking for those things, but rather we should look up and rejoice as we wait and watch for The Translation of The Saints; knowing that while the Tribulation is on the people on earth, the True Church will be with our Lord in Heaven.

The purpose of the Revelation is, "To Reveal The Lord Jesus Christ", not only as The Lamb of God, but also as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords", for in "That Day" He will be the "God of Wrath and Vengeance".

A second purpose is to give a picture of the "Seventieth Week" of Daniel's prophesy. And a third purpose is to encourage Christians to watch and wait for that "Great Hope" of the church, The Rapture, to take place.

The book is addressed to "The Seven Churches in Asia", and since there were more than seven churches, the "word" Seven must indicate all Christ honoring organizations. These "7" churches must be "typical" churches and may represent 7 Church Periods in History, stretching from the first century A.D. to the present time.

We must understand that Revelation is written largely in symbols and these symbols need proper interpretation to give a correct picture. Numbers are quite often used as symbols and when used in this manner, they do not necessarily indicate quantity. The number "ten" for example, carries the thought of one more than nine but in symbolic language, it indicates "worldly fullness or completion". So it is with many "numbers" we find in the Bible; they carry a dual meaning.

Below is a list of several numbers and their meaning when used as symbolic "words", rather than mathematical figures.

- Seven – completeness, perfection or dispensational fullness.
- Four – of the world, man's activities in this world.
- Three – the Trinity. But, we must realize Satan has a trinity also.
- Three & one half – opposed to the "seven", but broken and doomed to failure.
- Five – denoting division, separation or disagreement.
- Six – indicating man's efforts, less than perfection; brings judgment on himself.
- Ten – worldly completion. World's total strength in military & financial matters.
- Twelve – The Church. 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles, 12 gates to The New Jerusalem.
- Twenty-four – the combined church of both the Old & New Testaments.
- The Four Beasts – God's creation in this world (Rev 4:6-9; also Ezekiel 1). 6-wings on each show man's domination of this creation (Gen 1:26).

The first chapter shows Christ active among His churches (Rev 1:13) but the third chapter reveals him outside, knocking for admittance (Rev 3:20). Giving us the thought that a church may, from a worldly viewpoint, be doing just fine – having not Christ and not realizing her sad condition.

The second and third chapters contain messages from Christ to the church, divided into seven parts, thus showing that all the messages are for all Christ professing organizations. These messages are accumulative so that all the messages apply to us today.

## **Chapter One**

# **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **It's All About Jesus**

God gave the revelation to Jesus Christ and he sent it to John by His angel. In his salutation, verses 4, 5 and 6, John gives a picture of God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit, showing their love for and efforts to redeem fallen mankind.

In verse 4 we read, "...the seven Spirits which are before His throne". This is a bit confusing to some people for we understand there is only ONE SPIRIT of God. Isaiah 11:2 gives more light on this, where Isaiah presents Him as One Spirit but manifested in seven ways. Seven being the "word" indicating perfection, or completeness. Here He is described as:

- 1) Spirit of Jehovah
- 2) Spirit of Wisdom.
- 3) Spirit of Understanding.
- 4) Spirit of Counsel.
- 5) Spirit of Might.
- 6) Spirit of Knowledge.
- 7) Spirit of the Fear of The Lord.

John's statement that he was in The Spirit on The Lord's Day may mean that he (John) was projected into the future (this present time) and was shown the things that will come to pass in the closing days of this age. John saw "Seven Candlesticks" or Lampstands. Better described as "Holders of The Light" or containers of oil (The Holy Spirit). When we fail to receive The infiling of the Holy Spirit, we are as lamps without a light. The reference to "candlesticks" and "Stars", both for use in the night indicates this world is in a night of sin.

In verses 13 and 14 John saw Jesus as the One Mediator between God and man and also as The One in whom dwells "The fullness of the Godhead bodily" ( Col. 2:9). Christ has the leaders of the churches in His right hand, indicating His control and protection over His ministers. The two-edged sword speaks of the power of The Word of God through His ministers; also reproof and punishment of the churches.

John caught a brief glimpse of the "Fullness of The Glory of God" in the face of Jesus and it knocked him to the ground as a dead man; the same glory that Moses was not able to look upon, and also blinded Saul (Paul). Not until we are changed at the resurrection and the rapture will we be able to see Him as He is.

After telling John that he (Jesus) was dead but is alive for evermore and has the keys of hell and death, He commissions John to write this book.

**In verse 19, Jesus divides the writings of John into three parts:**

1. "The things thou hast seen" or things past. The vision of Christ among the churches.

2. "The things which are" or things present. The seven churches as seen in chapters two and three.
3. "The things which shall be hereafter" or chapter four to the end of the book. The tribulation period. Daniel's Seventieth Week. The Revelation and future Glory.

In chapter four we see the church in Heaven, following the rapture. Thus chapters two and three must be an account of the church and her activities from the time John wrote the book until the translation of the Saints; for the church disappears from the earth after chapter three – and the next time we see her is in chapter nineteen coming with Christ at His Revelation. Accordingly we can divide the time since John's day to the present day into seven periods of church history as indicated by the messages to the seven churches. Let us remember that the imperfection of each church period are carried over to the following period and that the present church has the problems of all Previous churches in- some degree.

## Chapter Two

# A Basic Study On Revelation

## The Seven Churches Of Asia

### 1. The Ephesian Church period was from A.D 33-70.

**The word " Ephesus " means to relax or let go:**

The church at Ephesus had many good points but they had become things of habit rather than of love. Jesus calls them to "remember from whence thou art fallen, repent, and do the first works", Remember, repent and do – a change in heart; a change in attitude was the need; for all things must be done with a heart of love.

Verse 6. – "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes which I also hate".

### 2. The Smyrna church period was from A.D. 70 to A.D. 170.

Paul founded this church – and before he left, he warned them of danger. Acts 20:29,30 - - " I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them ". Here, the "wolves" are called Nicolaitanes, and were a group in the church who were trying to set up a " Priestly Order ", possibly based on the Old Testament order of Priests, Levites, and common people.

"Niko" means to conquer or overthrow, while "Laos" means people or laity. The idea was to establish a "Holy Order of Men" and set them over the laity, not as pastors but as Bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals and Pope. God said that He hates this idea, the idea of separating the clergy from the laity.

Because of tribulations the church at Smyrna had been reduced to poverty; their ability to make a living had been severely restricted; but The Lord said,"You are rich". Here the Lord plainly tells us that Satan has a church, that the devil is back of many of our sufferings – that tribulations shall last (ten days) until the world is full, or tires of the persecution. Many shall die in the tribulation and to them will be given a "Crown of Life". This is the martyr's crown, only be faithful. Smyrna has for its root meaning "bitterness" or "Myrrh" an ointment used at death, thus indicating the troubles to come upon the members of the church at Smyrna.

### 3. The Pergamos church period was from A.D. 170 to A.D. 312.

The word "Pergamos" means "Marriage" and foreshadows the union of church and state which came about during this period of church history. Pergamos is spoken of as being " where Satan's seat is ". Satan had shifted his capitol from Babylon to Pergamos when Attalus III, Priest-King of the Chaldeans, fled before the conquering Persians.

Satan began by persecuting the followers of Christ, and Antipas was one of the martyrs, but soon Satan changed his tactics and began to lift up the church and through Constantine united the church and state. Satan introduced the doctrine of Baalam (founded by Nimrod in Babylon) and by this time the Nicolaitanes had secured a firm hold on the church. Many pagan ideas and practices were joined to the worship of God during this time (Mt. 23:8,9).

#### **4. This Thyatira Church period was from A.D. 312 to A.D. 606.**

The church at Thyatira was a group of Christians of increasing devotion and continuous growth in faithful service but The Lord had to come to them with flaming searching eyes and feet ready to bring judgment on sin. Their sin?

They had permitted a bad woman, who called herself a "Prophetess" to remain in the church and teach doctrines which "seduced" the servants of The Lord to "commit fornication" and "eat things sacrificed to idols". We do not know who this woman was but she must have had a great deal of influence, and Christ called her "Jezebel", probably because she was so much like the wife of Ahab in Elijah's time.

That Jezebel brought the doctrine of Baal and Astarte, killed all the prophets of The Lord she could lay her hands on in the northern kingdom of Israel and after her daughter married Jehoram, King of Judah, they introduced idolatrous worship there also. Soon there was a house of Baal in Jerusalem, so Jezebel caused all Israel to sin.

There is no doubt this Jezebel was a real woman but she also typified a "system". This system is thought by many to be the "Papal Church". When that church introduced images and pictures into the churches for the people to bow down to, it became idolatrous. When it claimed that the teachings of the church are superior to the Word of God, it assumed the role of "Prophetess".

During the years between A.D. 606 and the time of the Reformation, A.D. 1520, more pagan rites were introduced into the service. It was during this time the wars of the Crusades and the Inquisitions came about, and terrible times of persecutions much like the original persecutions under the original Jezebel were evident. So Satan was successful in bringing about idol worship by working inside the church; and the Papal Church is still engaged in that line. The final picture of this woman is seen in chapter 17.

This church period was from A.D. 606 to A.D. 1520.

### **Chapter Three**

## **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **Continued Seven Churches**

#### **5. The Sardis church period was from A.D. 1520 to A.D. 1750.**

Although the church at Sardis was an active, lively group, they were no longer looking for the return of the Lord and seemed to be depending on their own efforts rather than the Holy Spirit. Verse 5 indicates that for our name to remain in The Book of Life, must continue to overcome. We overcome, not in our own efforts, but only by The Holy Spirit as we continue to hold on to The Lord Jesus, in faith, believing.

The word "Sardis" means "the escaping ones" or those who "come out" and is a type of the church of the Reformation period. The Papal church had become unbearable for the true believers and Martin Luther began the Protestant Movement. It was more a struggle for political freedom than a struggles movement but it did encourage the circulation of the scriptures, brought back the doctrine of "Justification by Faith", and led to more simple methods of worship. This movement started the turn from idol worship back to God.

## **6. The Philadelphia church period was from A.D. 1750 to A.D. 1900**

The meaning of the word "Philadelphia" is "Brotherly Love", and this is the most nearly perfect of the seven churches. This period lasted about 150 years and much missionary and evangelistic work was accomplished.

### **Three things are said about this church:**

1) It had a little strength. It was the dead Sardis church coming back to life or being revived, and revivals have been characteristic of this period. Those of George Whitefield, John Wesley, Charles G. Finney, D.L. Moody and others.

2) It had an open door set before it, that no man could shut. Missionaries went into countries around the world with The Gospel where it had never been preached before.

3) It shall be kept from the hour of temptation (tribulation), that shall come upon all the world; additional proof that the church is to be caught out before the Great Tribulation.

### **The Laodicean Church Period is from 1900-**

Everything about this church of Laodicea is ungodly. It had lost the fervent love and come to be only lukewarm—no longer useful to the Lord. The most useless person in the world – the most difficult to reach, is that one who has drifted into luke-warmness—still believing he is alright. Most of the churches of the world are in this condition today:

There is much activity but it is largely mechanical and of a social nature. Evangelists and singers are hired, and soul winning is made a business. Satan deceived this church just as Jesus warned in Matt. 24:4,5 he would try. Members of the church say, "We are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing".

But Jesus said, "You are wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked". Outwardly rich, with beautiful cathedral-Like buildings stained glass windows, eloquent preachers, paid singers, robed choirs, carpeting, air-conditioning, organs, public address systems; but yet, poor. Most of the members are worldly, card-playing, dancing, theater-going Christians. The poor and saintly are not wanted, for their presence is a rebuke. These churches do not realize they are poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock".

These words are usually spoken as an appeal to sinners, but they are not, they are addressed to a church. Christ had one time been in this church, else there would not have been a church, but now He is outside, knocking for admittance. It is possible for a church to be outwardly prosperous and yet have no Christ in it—and be unconscious of that fact.

This is a description of a Christless church. His nation had rejected Him, the world had crucified Him and now the church has excluded Him. The church has not thrust him out for they do not seem to have missed His presence. They continue to worship him, to sing his praises and engage in all manner of Christian service, but He has withdrawn. Why? The reason is summed up in one word,—Worldliness.

But the long-suffering Christ is still pleading, "*If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me*". Each individual member must be sure of his own footing with The Lord of Glory, then the church can be warmed up again.

1) The church at Ephesus had the problem of Backsliding.

2) The church at Smyrna had the problem of sufferings and tribulations.

3) The church at Pergamos had the problem of False Doctrines.

- 4) The church at Sardis had the problem of breaking from idolatry.
- 5) The church at Philadelphia sending Missionaries/Evangelists.
- 6) The church at Laodicea had the problem of lukewarmness and excluded Christ.

All these problems have accumulated in today's church. We are confronted with all of them. But, we also have all the promises to the church, and for the overcomer the next great promise is that of the catching away of the church; The Rapture.

There are four applications of the teachings in these three chapters.

- 1) Just as they are presented to the seven churches in Asia of John's day,
- 2) To the seven periods of church history from John's day to our time.
- 3) Each church, including those of today, passes through these various stages in it's growth and life.
- 4) Each individual Christian goes through times equivalent to these church conditions.

PROMISES TO THE OVERCOMER, as found in the messages to the seven churches.

CHURCH	REFERENCE	PROMISE w/Repentance
Ephesus	Rev 2:7	Eternal Life
Smyrna	Rev 2:11	No More death
Pergamos	Rev 2:17	Inner Peace, Strength.
Thyatira	Rev 2: 26, 28	Power To Rule Nations. Fellowship With Jesus
Sardis	Rev 3:5	Garments Of Righteousness. Name written in Book Of Life. Introduction To The Father, And The Angels
Philadelphia	Rev 3:12	Belong To God The Father and God The Son, And Live In The New Jerusalem.
Laodicea	Rev 3:21	Be Seated With God The Father And The Son In Their Throne.

## Chapter Four

### A Basic Study On Revelation

### The Rapture and Heavenly Worship

An invitation to look into the future from a heavenly viewpoint. God on His throne was such a brilliant sight that earthly words are not adequate to describe. Neither is the mind of man able to comprehend the greatness, power and majesty of Almighty GOD. John simply said it was as the brilliance of a giant

blue-white diamond with a translucent green halo\* there are no earthly words for such a sight. Twenty-four elders (combined church] surround the throne, while lightnings and thunders from the throne suggest that those who fail to heed the voices of The Written Word and The Living Word (The Bible and Jesus Christ) will suffer God's judgments. The sea of glass shows how calm and perfectly controlled all things are in the presence of God. The four (of the world) beasts show earthly creation under domination of man (six wings), Gen.1:26.

Note the end of the chapter: "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.'"

All created things give honor and praise to God.

We who are born anew by the precious blood of the Lamb at the foot of the Cross are filled with unfathomable joy – and the glory of our Savior permeates throughout the heavens as worship and praise is freely given to our Master!

## **Chapter Five**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **The Book And The Lamb**

God holds a book bulging with information – but sealed with seven seals. It seemed that no one in heaven, in earth – above the earth – or in hell was worthy to open the book and John wept for fear he might not get to see into the future after all. Then Christ appears as The Lion of The Tribe of Judah (fulfilling the hopes of Israel), the Root of David (proving the promises to David), having gained this worthiness on The Cross of Calvary (surety of the Church ); thus supplying the needs of all mankind. His appearance as a Lamb, slain, revealed the greatness of the victory won on The Cross.

All creation now worships The Lamb, playing on guitars, singing a new song, accompanied by the prayers of saints. All creation., in heaven and in earth, now gives praise and honor to The Lamb, Jesus Christ.

This book was last seen in the final chapter of Daniel as he was told to seal it up, for it was not for his day but for the end time. This book reveals what will happen in the last of the seventy weeks God told Daniel were determined on his people, Israel.

These are weeks of years, being 490 years all told. 483 years, elapsed from the time Nehemiah was sent to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem to the time Christ was crucified; God stopped counting...turned from Israel to the gentiles and has been holding the count since. The Holy Spirit came to take a bride for God's Son, and for upwards of 1900 years He has been waiting for her to make herself ready. Soon she will be taken out of this world to be with the Lord. After that, god will resume counting for the final week, or seven years of Israel's troubles. The Tribulation is the 7-year period of the days of this world's worst nightmare.

With this in mind, we will begin to realize the main force or the brunt of Tribulations will be directed at the nation of Israel – though the entire "left behind" of the earth will be affected – the greatest time of horror the world has ever before seen.

Though controversial, most fundamental Christians believe the Church (Christ's Bride) will be raptured (translated; taken) from the earth at the beginning of Chapter four, when the Church is seen in heaven

wearing their pure white robes as the twelve and twenty-four elders. Christians all over the world should be watching for this coming of the Lord for His own.

John was thoroughly blessed as the throngs continued in praise and worship: “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing’. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, ‘Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever’”.

And the four beasts said, “Amen”. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshiped him that liveth for ever and ever”.

How can God’s people live mediocre lives on this earth in these final days just prior to the Lord’s coming! What a glorious time we will have on that day!

Insert between chapters 5 and 6.

At this point, it would be well to study the following parts of Daniel, since they refer directly to the person of Anti-christ and his activities during the Tribulation period.

Daniel 2:31-45; 7:8-14, and 19-27; 8:23-25; 9:22-27; 11:36-45; and 12:1-7

## Chapter Six

# A Basic Study On Revelation

## The Four Horses Of The Apocalypse

The first seal brought forth a white horse, which is a rising tide of anti-Christian ideology, it has been around for centuries but now becomes stronger. Growing modern teaching would strip Christ of His Divinity, deny His virgin birth, refute His resurrection, refuse to believe He is at the right hand of God as our High Priest, laugh at the idea of the translation of the church and scorn the thought of His return to earth to rule for 1000 years.

Modern teaching would bring Christ down to the level of man, thus preparing the way for a man (antichrist) to try and rise to the place prepared only for Christ Jesus. Jesus warned us to avoid being deceived (Matt 24:4,5), Paul added his warning (2 Thess 2:1-12). The white horse is the deception now going on in this world (2 Thess 2:6-8).

### **Four Horsemen:**

The rider is anti-christ as he uses the false ideology to rise to power. He conquers the minds of men, making it easy for him to take their bodies and souls. The bow indicates limited military success as he becomes dictator over ten kingdoms ( Rev 13:7, 17:12).

The red horse brings war on a greater scale than we have ever known before. When peace is taken from the earth then war will be everywhere.

The black horse is famine and rationing, natural results of extended war.

The pale horse is mal-nutrition, hunger, sickness and death. These actions will bring about the death of one fourth the population of the earth.

The fifth seal reveals martyrs in heaven, anxious for The Lord to come and avenge Himself on the Christ-rejecting people of this earth. They are told that More martyrs are yet to come, thus showing that many will give their lives for faith in God during the Tribulation Period. Christians, look up, for your redemption draws nigh, so be patient.

The sixth seal brings a great earthquake, so great that mountains and islands are moved from their places. The heavens are shaken in a great cosmic disturbance. Ungodly men seek refuge from the Wrath of The Lamb, for The Day of The Lord has come.

## **Chapter Seven**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **144,000 Sealed Witnesses**

In 1 Kings 19:18 we find an account of 7,000 who refused to bow to Baal. Here we find a considerable number (144,000) of Israelites who will not accept anti-christ as their Messiah. It would seem that these Jews have eagerly received the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, have accepted and become evangelists to their people, not only in Israel but around the world. In just three and one half years they must reach all their people.

Twelve, the number of the tribes, multiplied by twelve, the number of the church, multiplied by one thousand would suggest good results (Rev. 14:1-5 and Matt. 24:31). Many bible teachers including Dake, believe these 144,000 are the manchild pictured in chapter 12.

Verses 9 -17 show a great number of redeemed through great tribulation.

## **Chapter Eight**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal And Prayers Of The Saints**

Down through the ages saints have offered up prayers many of which were not answered because they were ahead of God's Time. Those prayers were bottled up until the proper time and now they are presented before the Throne of God – for God's Time has come and the prayers will be answered.

As the angels sound the trumpets many troubles come upon this earth; the judgment of the inhabitants.

## **Chapter Nine**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **The Opening Of The Bottomless Pit**

**The following is one interpretation of these symbols:**

These locusts, from the pits of hell, represent the violent emotions of unregenerate mankind. There is a smoke screen about them, for as usual, the person who harbored them tries to hide his true feelings under a guise of friendliness.

These violent emotions torment but do not kill their hosts. The word "five" represents division, and since only the ungodly are affected, will bring about a "division" in the ranks of the followers of anti-christ. The crowns on their heads show that rulers will be involved.

The hair as the hair of women would indicate these emotions are more often felt by the female, but not always. Women are becoming more involved in church and military matters and may have leading parts in this struggle. The teeth as lion's teeth show the tearing and destroying involved. Their king's name of Apollyon may be interpreted "Destroyer".

The emotions may be defined as; Envy, Jealousy, and Hatred. Thus far in chapter nine, we find a terrific struggle and something being destroyed. Chapter 17 must be studied with these 11 verses of chapter 9 to find out why the struggle and what is destroyed.

Chapter 17 gives a vivid picture of the Harlot or false church, how she has gained great wealth, martyred the saints of The LORD and gained the support of huge multitudes around the world. At first Anti-christ will pretend to support this false church (Rev.17:7) as long as it helps him and his plans; but during the middle of the week, Anti-christ and his civil and military leaders become envious of the great wealth of this false church, being jealous of her influence.

She exerts over people around the world and come to hate her. Rev. 17:16 shows how they confiscate the wealth, burn the buildings and completely destroy the false church. Antichrist will tolerate no worship except that directed at himself. Verse 17 reveals that God was directing the whole thing in order to fully remove all trace of this false church before Christ shall bring the True Church back to the earth for the one thousand year reign.

Turning now to the remainder of this chapter, beginning with verse 14. As we attempt to understand these things, we must remember that John wrote this book in the first century after Christ and he knew nothing of modern inventions. John had to use the words he was familiar with to try and describe modern technological inventions. He knew nothing of the telephone, radio, TV, steamship, submarine, airplane, missiles, jet engines, dynamite, atomic warheads, and high tech (satellite) electronics that we have today. It would seem he did an excellent job of describing things of which he was totally ignorant.

The word " four " indicates things are of man's making The word " angels " indicate multiple things that fly through the air. The word " bound " shows they are prepared ahead of time and are sitting, waiting for a signal. That signal will come in a certain year, a certain month, a certain day and a certain hour; when God sees that circumstances are right, then He will prompt the signal.

In early times the great river Euphrates was considered the gateway to the seven seas, or a symbol of activity in the oceans of the world. These things are to kill one third of mankind. Their power is in their heads and their tails. Smoke, fire and brimstone from the head but also power in the tail.

Now let us convert John's picture into present day terms.

Most civilized nations, have nuclear powered submarines prowling the waters of the seven seas, loaded with Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. More missiles are in under ground silos and still more in big bombers—waiting for a signal from our president or the premier of Russia to send them on their deadly mission. A jet engine in the tail—power there; they will fly through the air like an angel. Nuclear warheads that will spout forth smoke, fire and brimstone (remember the two cities of Japan?). Enough of them to destroy commercial Babylon in one hour, for she shall be burned with fire (Rev. 18). Enough to kill one third of mankind.

Nuclear burns and radiation sickness follow (Rev.16:2). In one hour shall the missiles be fired, the great cities of the world destroyed, one third of mankind killed.

So swift and certain is the judgment of our God. Thank God, the church will not be here.

**Chapter Ten**  
**A Basic Study On Revelation**  
**Interlude: John Eats The Book**

Voices of the seven thunders uttered things that are not as yet revealed to mankind. Perhaps these are impending judgments upon rebellious sinners but since sinners have failed to heed warnings already given, further warnings are withheld. On the other hand, we may understand that God has things in store for His people that we do not need to know at this time. We can only surmise as to what they may be. So wonderful, so magnificent are God's plans for the future that our little mind, although born again, would not be able to grasp and take in the greatness and the beauty of these things. Rather than baffle man with things too great for him to understand, God simply withholds further revelations of the wonderful events of the future which He has for the overcomer.

Christ appears to take formal possession of this world (actual possession comes a bit later). He will delay no longer, the Mystery of God will be finished. John was given the little book to eat, with the understanding it would taste sweet to the mouth but bitter to the belly. The Words of God are sweet to the Christian as we take them in, but later as we think about the awfulness of sin and the necessity for judgment on rebellious mankind, we become nauseated and sick at the stomach. John was to return to work, there was no time to waste. When the seventh angel sounds, God will take over – the Mystery of God will be finished.

**Chapter Eleven**  
**A Basic Study On Revelation**  
**The Two Witnesses**

For three and one half years Antichrist shall occupy Jerusalem, claiming to be God and demanding to be worshipped. At the same time God will have two witnesses in Jerusalem, they will prophesy and tell The Truth, bring a drought and other plagues and be protected, until their testimony is finished.

Verses 3 and 4 speaks of God's two witnesses, the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. The two witnesses will prophesy, or preach in Israel and around the world for 1,260 (3 ½ years, based on the prophetic year of 360 days). This will probably occur during the last half of the Tribulation period, while invading Gentile forces are in control of Jerusalem (probably the Arabs of many nations). Sackcloth indicates mourning, confession and repentance.

The "witnesses" will proclaim a message of Judgment and the need for said repentance. They bear similarities to John the Baptist, and they will be the ultimate fulfillment of the promised return of Elijah (Mal 4:5,6; John 1:21). They are also identified as the two olive trees and the two candlesticks (Zech. 4:2-6), where Zerubbabel and Joshua the priest are pictured as two olive trees furnishing oil for the lampstand (Israel). They provided help and power for Israel in a time of need. These two witnesses will be for Israel in the future what Zerubbabel and Joshua were in the past: The channels of God's power and message to Israel during the Tribulation period.

These two witnesses will perform miracles similar to those performed by Moses and Elijah—to both destroy those who attempt to harm them, and to bring forth the proof and fulfillment of Old Testament scriptures referring to a work of the Holy Spirit among all Israelites (see Ex. 7:14-20; 8:12; 1 Kings 17:1; 2 Kings 1:10-12; Luke 4:25; and James 5:17).

As their task is finished, Antichrist will have them killed. Elijah and Moses had such power in their

lifetimes and may be the two men, but in light of the scripture which says, "It is appointed unto man once to die" perhaps Enoch will be one of the two. Their dead bodies will lie, unburied, in the streets of Jerusalem for three and one half days, while people around the world will see them via satellite TV.

God will call them to life (resurrection, if you please) and take them once more to heaven. The seventh angel sounds and it is time for God to take charge of the kingdoms of this world – to reign forever and ever. The combined churches worship God.

## **Chapter Twelve**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **The Woman And The Dragon**

The Sun clothed woman is undoubtedly the nation of Israel. The rescription as being clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars, reminds the bible student of the second dream of Joseph, as recorded in Genesis 37:9. The sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to Joseph, he being the twelfth star. Jacob and his sons were the beginning of the nation and here in Rev. twelve we have the same description.

#### **The manchild:**

There seem to be two opinions as to who this may be.

Many students, among them Finis Dake, believe the manchild is the 144,000 Jews who refuse to accept Antichrist. They accept the Lord Jesus Christ and thus become the firstfruits from the nation of Israel following the rapture of the church.

This is the group pictured in Rev. 7:3-8 and also 14:1-5. Satan seeks to destroy them under the first six trumpets but God protects them and takes them to heaven at the 7th trumpet and at the same time God casts Satan out of the heavenlies. Frustrated, knowing his time is short, Satan turns his anger on the woman, Israel.

Clarence Larkin is of the opinion the manchild is The Lord Jesus, Himself. John is given a backward glance to see the birth of Christ and his ascension to the throne of God. Then because he is dealing with the woman, Israel and not the church he skips over the church age to the time when she must flee from Antichrist. Israel had looked forward to the time when she could say, "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" Isa. 9:6,7. In Romans 9:4,5, Paul writes concerning Israel, "Of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came". The nation of Israel had to go through many sore afflictions and judgments, these were her time of "travail".

In due time she brought forth a "manchild" who was to rule the nations with a "Rod of iron", Rev.19:15. The 2nd Psalm seems to indicate the manchild is Christ.

There is general agreement that the "City of Refuge" to which the woman flees is in the area of Edom, Moab, and the children of Ammon; which escapes the hand of Antichrist ( Daniel 11:41 ).

Israel wandered for 40 years in the land of Edom and here we find the "City of Refuge" provided for Israel. Its name is "Petra" and it was an important commercial center in the time of King Solomon. The Romans conquered the area in A.D. 105 but as their power gradually fell, the Arabs took over the country and the city became lost to the civilized world until 1812 when it was re-discovered by Burckhardt. Petra is located high in the mountains, much as a crater in the cone of an extinct volcano. Cliff like walls surround the area, 200 to 1000 feet in height. These walls are carved and honey-combed with living

quarters, some as high as 300 feet above the floor of the valley.

There is only one entrance, through a narrow, winding canyon, 12 to 40 feet wide, with towering cliffs on either side. The floor of the valley contains many ruins of old buildings. Larkin feels that the " flood Satan sends after the woman will be an army which will be lost in desert sand storms while the woman, Israel, reaches safety in the old city of Petra.

Here the woman will remain until her High -Priest returns to rescue her after three and one half years.

The following are scriptures showing some of the activities of Satan during the middle of the Tribulation Week.

Daniel 9:27 - And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease and for the over-spreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Rev. 12:7-9. 13:17 - And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: and he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And when the dragon saw that he was cast out unto the earth he persecuted the woman, which brought forth the man-child. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 11:30.31 - ...he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: ...

Daniel 11:41 - He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be over thrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

Daniel 12:11,12 - And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away ) and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

Matt. 24:15-22 - When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place,( whoso readeth, let him understand ), Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the house top not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days. But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day; for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the 'elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Rev. 12:6 and 14 - And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days. And to the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Jer. 31:2 - Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

Daniel 12:7. .. it shall be for a time, times, and a half: and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

### **Chapter Thirteen**

## **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **It's All About Jesus**

A picture, as John saw it, of Anti-christ as he comes to power over ten kingdoms inside the old Roman Empire. The word " Tem N represents worldly completion but we must remember that the world in John's day consisted of the territory in the Old Roman Empire. Anti-christ will revive the old Grecian Empire (symbolized by the leopard, with characteristics of Persia, the bear, and Babylon, the lion ). The deadly wound probably refers to the nation of Greece, once a mighty nation, now a dormant people, which will become strong once again. Anti-christ will be a gifted orator. He receives his power, throne and great authority from Satan, however Anti-christ himself is simply another man.

The false prophet is also just another man who will be the religious leader of the Anti-christ. He will also have the power of Satan to speak great things and perform miracles, thus deceiving many people. He will give life to the image and cause it to speak, demanding the death penalty for all who will not worship the Anti-christ. The false prophet brings on the Mark of The Beast.

The number is 666. Six is the number for man and perhaps it is simply six hundred and sixty six; however might it not symbolize one who has tried three times to take over as God, and each time has fallen short ? Fallen short of God's number " Seven ", having reached only to six, six, six.

He tried in Isa. 14:12-14, again when he tempted Christ in the wilderness, and now as he exalts himself in the temple of God in Jerusalem.

### **Chapter Fourteen**

## **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **Interlude: The Lamb and The 144,000**

Jesus Christ appears surrounded by the redeemed of Israel (144,000). Verse 4 says these have no taint of idolatry, having refused to accept Anti-christ; they have worshiped only God The Father, and God The Son (or Messiah ). The first angel messenger preaches the gospel just as we have it, plus the fact that the hour of God's judgment has come. The second angel preaches the fall of Babylon, Rev. 16:17-21, and 18:1-24. The third angel preaches the doom of the beast worshipers.

Verse 13 reveals a special blessing upon those who die because they refuse to take the mark of the beast.

The Son of man finishes reaping the earth (symbolic of the battle of Armageddon ). An angel finishes reaping the ungodly (also the battle of Armageddon).

Christ died without the city, so shall this winepress be trodden without the city. This blood river will come from the veins of multitudes slain in the battle, and from the hail, blood and overflowing rain that will fall from heaven on this clay. This river as of blood will be about 184 miles long.

Scriptures are listed at the end of chapter 19 showing how God will destroy the armies of Anti-christ at The Battle of Armageddon.

## **Chapter Fifteen**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **Visions Of Heaven**

Seven angels stand ready to pour out the last dregs of God's wrath. Martyrs of Jesus during the tribulation are present in the throne room of The Heavenly Temple where the Glory of God will light the whole city and cause the glittering on the sea of glass. The song of Moses was one of triumph over Pharaoh and his armies. The song of The Lamb is also one of triumph, victory over Satan and all enemies of God and man.

Verse 7 would seem to indicate the seven last plagues, or wrath of God, which are handed to the angels by one of the beasts will be man-made troubles; things man brings upon himself but used of God to punish man. Probably a result of technological and scientific inventions.

## **Chapter Sixteen**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

#### **The Seven Vials Of God's Wrath**

Larkin and Dake both accept these plagues as literal, and they may be right; but to stimulate our thinking.

Those "noisome and greivous sores", could they be nuclear burns and radiation sickness? The sea (Mediterranean) becomes as blood and everything in it dies – the red tide on the Florida beaches (in the news recently), the result of an ecological imbalance in the sea; could that be a foretaste?

The third plague brings contamination to all fresh water; many parts of the world have already accomplished this. The fourth plague brings a drought with hot, burning sunshine (Rev.11:6).

The fifth plague brings darkness to Jerusalem (seat of the beast) and the kingdom of Anti-christ. Cosmic darkness, spiritual darkness (already here), mental darkness, and electrical darkness, one and possibly all, for the followers of Anti-christ cursed God and did not repent. The sixth plague in some manner, prepares the oceans of the world to facilitate or hasten the movement of the armies from the eastern nations to the site of the battle of Armageddon. Satan (the dragon), Anti-christ and the false prophet (the counterfeit trinity) combine their lies, propaganda and miracles of the Devil to entice the rulers of the other nations to support Anti-christ in his efforts to prevent Christ from taking over the earth at His second Advent.

The seventh angel pours out the last plague and God takes over, sending the mightiest earthquake ever. He destroys the great cities of the world (commercial Babylon. Rev.18). God sends a great hail storm on the armies of Anti-christ, stones averaging one hundred pounds each, with over-flowing rain. The 7th Egyptian plague was a mighty hail storm (Ex. 9:13-35). God helped Joshua beat his enemies with a hail storm (Joshua 10:11). The Law required "Blasphemers" be stoned to death (Lev. 24:16). Blasphemers of the end-time shall be "Stoned" with huge hailstones from Heaven. (see scriptures about hail following chapter 19).

Zechariah 14:13 tells us that the armies gathered to help Anti-christ will fight among themselves; this confusion brought about by God.

## **Chapter Seventeen**

# **A Basic Study On Revelation**

## **The Great Harlot**

A vivid picture of the false religious systems of the world, how they have gained great wealth, martyred the Saints of The Lord and gained the support of huge multitudes around the world. It has been estimated that more than 200,000,000 persons have already been martyred because they would not conform to some established religious system. These executions were carried out by civil authorities but always on the prompting of religious leaders. But, finally the civil and military rulers turn against such systems, destroy them and give their full support to Anti-christ, thus fulfilling Rev. 17:16,17.

The Roman Catholic Church with headquarters in Rome, Italy (city on seven hills), with her pagan ways and idolatrous worship, has been thought by many to be this, "Mystery Babylon the Great, The Harlot Church". Whoever she may be, she is fully destroyed before the True Church, The Bride of Christ, is brought back to this earth by The Lord.

The following is a brief history of the Babylonian Cult, it's origin, how it spawned many false religions during the centuries and finally how it came to be merged with the church at Rome, thus founding the Roman Catholic Church. Church history over the last 1500 years reveals the leading role played by this organization in persecuting the Christians, those who refused to bow to her dictates.

### **Mystery, Babylon The Great**

The 17th chapter of Revelation presents the picture of a beautiful but, lewd and dangerous woman. This woman is a symbol of false religious systems.

After the flood God told Noah and his sons to spread out and replenish the earth. In spite of this, they continued to stay together for more than 400 years and having found a fertile plain along the Euphrates, decided to build a city for themselves. These first settlers came to the area around 4000 B.C.

Nimrod built the city of Babylon (Gen.10:8-10), and being a rebel, he was easily persuaded by Satan to establish a rebel religion; since known as the "Babylonian Cult", A mysterious false trinity was invented with Nimrod as The Father God, his wife Semirames as The Mother God, and her illegitimate son, Tammuz as The Son, God. To make things more mysterious, after the death of Nimrod, Semiramis claimed that Nimrod had returned and was alive again in the person of her son, Tammuz. According to this Semiramis was not only the wife of God but also the mother of God. So, she was called MOTHER OF GOD, and worshiped as QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

This Babylonian Cult put out the claim that it had all wisdom and could reveal all secrets. Before being admitted as a member, each person had to confess all sins and secrets. To priest to whom he confessed then knew all about him and had him in his power. Members were required to give up all national allegiance and be members only of this "mystical brotherhood" or "Babylonian Cult".

Satan continued to maintain this false religion in Babylon until the fall of the Babylonian Empire. From this fountain-head of Idolatry came many false religions. Every important city had it's own special god or goddess, with elaborate temple rituals, and colorful religious festivals.

The king of each district represented the deity on earth, exercising military, political, civil and spiritual authority. The people worshiped gods representing the sun, moon, sky, earth and water. The Babylonians first practiced astrology and various kinds of magic.

Ruins are all that remain of a temple where Babylonians once worshiped "Ishtar", an important goddess. We get our word "Easter" from this goddess. One meaning of the word "Babylon" is gate of the god, and the city was the religious center for these people. A great temple was built for Marduk Bel, another of the many gods. This temple and its buildings covered more than 60 acres. His worshipers called him the "Great lord, lord of heaven and earth".

For the past 5000 years this mysterious woman, the symbol of false religions, has appeared in various places under different names at different times. Always with the intent to deceive and mislead, and the picture in Rev. 17 reveals this intent. In ancient Egypt she appeared as the idol trinity of Isis, Horus and Seb. IHS.

Some time later, among the nations surrounding Israel, this mysterious system of religion was headed by Baal and Ashtaroth; causing a great deal of trouble for God's people. We should remember Elijah and his encounter with the 400 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel; also his flight to escape Jezebel.

In Ezekiel 8, God shows Ezekiel the idol worship that the house of Israel was engaged in.

Verse 5 revealed Devil worship, verse 9 -12 shows the old men worshiping creeping things and all manner abominable beasts, in what they thought was secret. Verse 14 reveals women weeping for Tammuz, the Son God of the Babylonian Cult. Verse 16 shows men worshiping the Sun. In several places Tammuz is given a different name and worshiped as "Dagon", the Fish God (Judges 16:23, 1 Sam. 5:3-7, 1 Chron.10:10 ), We find Semiramis again in Jer. 7:19, and 44:16-18, where there is burning of incense to the "Queen of Heaven". The people of Ephesus were worshiping Jupiter, Mercury and Diana; the false trinity under another name (Acts 14:11,12 and 19:24-34).

This woman of mystery appears again in Rev. 2:20-23, under the name of Jezebel as she works her way into the New Testament Church. It would seem that systems of false religion (the woman of Rev. 17, or the Babylonian Cult) are everywhere.

The Assyrians destroyed the city of Babylon in 689 B.C. It was rebuilt after the fall of the Assyrian Empire and under Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 B.C. ) was more splendid than ever. The Persians took the city in 539 B.C. and gradually it was abandoned. But to escape the conquering Persians, the Supreme Pontiff (High Priest) of the Babylonian Cult and his hierarchy were prompted by Satan, who is called king of Babylon (Isa.14:4), to move their scene of activities to Pergamos. There in the far western tip of Asia Minor is where they were when John wrote Revelation. (Rev. 2:13).

Christianity became the chief religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine The Great in the 300's A.D. Constantine wished to unite the pagan subjects with the Christians in a closer political union. It was really a political move but the rich presents and popularity heaped upon the church-leaders quite turned their heads and they were willing to compromise. Many pagan rites, ceremonies and traditions were introduced into the church services. Some of the people at Pergamos had already turned to worship Baal (Rev.2:14) and the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes was there, which teaches elevation of the clergy over the laity. The New Testament church was well on its way to false religion and idol worship.

To further Satan's aims, Attalus the Pontiff of The Babylonian Cult and King of Pergamos, willed his title and office to the Roman Emperor. Thus Julius Caesar became The Supreme Pontiff of The Babylonian Cult, and Rome became successor to Babylon.

Roman Emperors used the title and office until Gratian came to the throne in A.D. 376. Being a Christian, he refused the title and office knowing full well what it represented. Rebuffed by the Emperor, the Babylonian hierarchy offered the position to the Bishop of the church at Rome. Damasus had been made

bishop of the church at Rome and Pope 12 years before, largely through the influence of the Monks of Mt. Carmel, a college of Babylonian religion originally founded by the priests of Jezebel. Thus in A.D. 378 The Bishop of the church at Rome became the head of the Babylonian Cult and Satan had united Rome and Babylon in one single religious system.

Many changes came about over the next few years. The worship of the Virgin Mary was begun in 381 A.D. Several of the festivals used in the Roman Church originated with the Babylonian Cult. Our word "Easter" comes from the word "Ishtar", one title of the Babylonian "Queen of Heaven". The Roman Catholic "Sign of the cross" was first used in old Babylon as the sign of the letter "T", the initial letter of Tammuz. The practice of celibacy and the Order of Monks and Nuns cannot be supported by the Scripture. Nuns would seem to be an imitation of the "Vestal Virgins" of Pagan Rome.

The Pope's full title is Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, and Sovereign of the State of Vatican City.

An interesting sidelight on Satan's activities : Leo I was pope from 440 - 461 A.D. during this time, Attila, King of the Huns, ravaged central and western Europe. He invaded Italy in 452 and threatened Rome, but withdrew without attacking after Leo came to meet him and spoke with him. Leo also intervened and saved Rome in 455 when Genseric, leader of the Vandals threatened to destroy the city. Why did these two notorious rascals turn back when Leo the pope spoke to them ? Could it be that Satan didn't want one of his henchmen destroying another, and the false religion was worth more than the destruction of a city ? To Satan.

So this woman which John saw in Rev.17 riding upon the beast (Satan) with seven heads (seven great world empires), would seem to represent the Devil's church. The word "Mystery" would apply equally well to The Papal Church and Babylon, for both play upon the superstition of the uninformed to confuse and control. It was a mystery to John but now that the Papal Church has been formed, it is no longer a mystery.

The woman John saw – Mystery, Babylon The Great – is undoubtedly Idolatrous Religious Systems; with The Roman Catholic Church as perhaps the ring-leader of the group.

This woman will be the bride of Anti-christ, and Satan, who founded her, will in frustration turn on her and completely destroy her so that he may be the sole object of worship in the final 32 years of Great Tribulation. Without realizing it, Satan is really doing God's will by removing the false church before Christ brings the True Church back to this earth.

## **Chapter Eighteen**

# **A Basic Study On Revelation**

## **The Doom Of Babylon**

There surely are two "Babylons", chapter 17 presents one which we may call Ecclesiastical Babylon. Then chapter 18 presents another picture by a different angel. This second one we call "Commerical Babylon".

Here we have a dramatic picture of the unscrupulous commercial systems of this world, including production, manufacturing, wholesale, and retail; in commercial political, civil and military systems. This takes in false advertizing, shoddy merchandise, deceptive practices, burdensome interest rates, worthless warranties and guaranties, swindling, stealing, lying, robbing, cheating – methods by which men become

rich at the expense of others without working for it. Perhaps these methods are legally right but surely not morally right. These things must be swept away to make room for the next dispensation (Daniel 2:44,45), the systems of which will be operated on the principal of what is right.

In verse 4, God's people are warned to come away from such things that we not partake of the sin and not come under the plagues.

The ancient city of Babylon was destroyed, there is no doubt, but many of the prophecies about her destruction have not as yet been fulfilled. Certainly it has not yet come to pass that "neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there, neither shall the shepherds make their fold there" (Isa.13:20). It cannot be said of Babylon that "Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby". (Jer.51:43). Nor can it be said "And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations, but thou shalt be desolate forever, saith the Lord" (Jer.51:26).

Many local towns have been built from the ruins of old Babylon, and building bricks are still available with the stamp of Babylon on them.

Isaiah pinpoints the time when Babylon shall be utterly destroyed in chapter 13:6, and again in verse 9, as "The Day of The Lord". In verse 19 we read, "And Babylon the glory of the kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation". We know that "The Day of The Lord" refers to the day of His Vengeance, or the time of His Revelation, at the close of The Tribulation Period, when Christ comes to set up His Kingdom.

When the Medes and the Persians took Babylon, in Daniel's day, it merely fell into decay and its ruins are still there. Also the land has not been desolate but rather people have continued to live in the area and even today, there is a town of 10,000 inhabitants on the site. With all these things in mind, we must believe that the city will be revived and rebuilt. Once more Babylon will become the greatest of the world's cities, resplendent in beauty, glittering with lights and excitement.

Full of pleasure mad people, busily engaged in all manner of buying and selling, running after sports and entertainment. Satan chose this city for his capitol back in Nemrod's time and in all probability will return his base of operations to this place. There is talk even now of moving the head-quarters of the United Nations ( Modern tower of Babel ), perhaps it will go there.

Geologists tell, us the site of Old Babylon is situated over a vast deposit of asphalt that Babylon Will be treated to an earthquake more severe than has ever been and the city falls into three parts. This earthquake is accompanied by a great storm with much vivid lightening. It seems possible the asphalt is set on fire by the lightening and the city is enveloped in flame.

The city sinks into the lake of burning asphalt and is forever gone, much as a "Millstone "would be when cast into the sea (Rev.18:21). It will be impossible to use her building stones and the land shall become a wilderness where no man shall ever dwell. Then the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah will be completely fulfilled. The writer realizes there is a great deal of supposition in this but it seems to be the accepted interpretation of this chapter by most bible students.

To further stimulate our thinking concerning Commercial Babylon, just suppose modern Commercial Babylon includes not only the new, rebuilt city of Babylon but also all the other great commercial cities of the world : New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, Rome, Singapore, Berlin, Chicago, even Houston and Dallas, for they too, are parts of this great world commercial system. They too, are " become the habitation of Devils and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird (Rev

18:2). Rev. 16:19 says in part, . . . "and the cities of the nation fell".

The destruction shall come in one day ( Rev. 18:8), death, mourning and famine. Judgment in one hour of the day (Verses 10,17,19). Burned with fire (verses 8,9,18). It seems highly probable in light of present day inventions, that the destruction will be accomplished through ICBM warfare. Verses 10, 15, 17 all speak of standing far away to avoid contamination or radiation.

Chapter 9:14-21 gives a preview of this ICBM warfare.

Verse 24 blames this Babylon for the blood of prophets, saints and all that are slain on the earth; a very sobering thought.

## **Chapter Nineteen**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **Praise To God For His Judgment**

John's attention is now directed to scenes in heaven just before the second coming of Christ, as many people shout praises unto the Lord,` our God, for His righteous judgments on the systems that corrupted mankind and shed the blood of His people. Again, they shout His praises because these systems are forever gone All the redeemed with all God's creation worship God as He sits on the throne.

Verse 7 brings a picture of the marriage of The Lamb and all the redeemed from Abel to the millennium, who live in the New Jerusalem; which is the true bride of Christ. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him; for The Son of God is now ready to receive those who have prepared themselves for this hour. To the prepared ones is given new clothes of fine linen, clean and white, for they are clean through and through. Happy are those who are come to live with Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God.

Verse 11 brings the last of seven dispensations, that of Divine Government or Millennium. Christ appears as The King, Conquer, Judge, Lord of Lords, The Son of God so great and powerful that man is unable to fully comprehend His Greatness. He is revealed as taking bloody vengeance on those who disregard The Word of God. An angel calls to vultures and evil spirits in the atmosphere to gather for a great feast. John saw Anti-christ, his demons and their armies ready to make war with God and the armies of Heaven.

The Anti-christ and his false preacher, who has deceived many with the miracles which he has performed for and by Satan, are sent at once into the Lake of Fire, literal hell, the final death. Their followers are killed by The Word of The Living God; their bodies given to vultures and their souls given to evil spirits, destined for hell (Lake of Fire ).

10 ways Anti-christ's armies are destroyed:

1. By the brightness of Christ's coming
2. By angels (2 Tim.1:7-10; 2:8,9)
3. Saints (Rev.19:14; Jude 14; and Zech. 14:5)
4. Cloudburst (Ezek. 38:22)
5. Great hailstones (Rev.16:21; and Ezek. 38)
6. Fire and brimstone (Ezek. 38:22)
7. Pestilence & blood (Ezek. 38:22)
8. Jewish army (Zech. 14:14)
9. Self-destruction (Zech. 14:13)
10. Christ's Sword (Rev.19:15,21; and Isa. 11:4)

### **Hailstones as used in the Scriptures:**

Joshua 10:11–The Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them – and they died: there were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Job 38:22 – Hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

Isaiah 28:2 – Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing shall cast down .

Isaiah 28:17 – The hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

Isaiah 30:30 – And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones. For through the voice of the Lord shall the Assyrian be beaten down.

Ezek. 38:21,22 – And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Lev. 24:16 – The Law required that blasphemers be stoned to death.

Rev. 16:21 – And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; . .

Chapters 6 through 19 reveal terrible conditions on earth during the final 7 years of punishment on the nation of Israel; this punishment decreed by God. All ungodly peoples will be involved along with the Jews.

As born-again Christians, we must not allow ourselves to become overly upset over these things; we are instructed to look up and rejoice. The Lord wills that His people share His own peace with those who are weaker – and help prepare them to willingly give their own lives to the Lord by faith – if needed.

The following two pages will trace the pathway and the events for the Bride of Christ during these same seven years, beginning at the close of chapter three.

### **The Church During The 7-Year Tribulation**

#### **I. The Rapture:**

A) 1 Thess. 4:16, 17 – For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

B) 1 Cor. 15:51, 52 – Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The rapture will take place following the third chapter of Revelation, for in chapter four we see the twenty-four elders, representing the combined church of all ages; and they are in heaven at this time. The

church does not appear again, on earth, until the latter part of the 19th chapter, when she returns with Christ.

There is some confusion concerning the second coming of the Lord, but it will clear up if we remember that His coming is in two parts. The first part is at the rapture, when He comes for His saints; the second part is approximately seven years later – when He comes with His saints.

## **II. The Judgment Seat of Christ:**

A) Romans 14:10 – for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

B) Romans 14:12 – every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

C) 2 Cor. 5:10 – We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

It may be like a judges stand at a fair, where rewards are passed out to the winners. For 1 Cor. 9:24 asks, *Know ye not that they which run in a race, run all, but one receiveth the prize ? So run that ye may obtain.*

This Judgment is described in 1 Cor. 3:11-15. Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest, for the Day ( Judgment Day ) shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. What determines whether a man's work is "good" or "bad"?

It may be that the motive and the intent of the heart will determine that. If our love for God is the motivation, and a desire to help others is the intent of our heart, then the work will receive a reward. However, if we are motivated by a love for " Self ", and the intent of our heart is to gain from, or excel over others; then the work is worthless and will receive no reward. So, let us examine our own heart, carefully; why do we do what we do? What is the motive and what is the intent?

## **III. The Rewards:**

A) The Crown of Life – the Martyr's Crown (James 1:12, and Rev. 2:10)

B) The Crown of GLORY – for the faithful Elder or Pastor (1 Peter 5:2-4)

C) The Crown of REJOICING – The soul winners Crown (1 Thes. 2:19,20; Phil. 4:1)

D) The Crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS – For those who love His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8)

E) The Crown INCORRUPTIBLE – The Victor's Crown (1 Cor. 9:25-27)

## **IV. The KING receives His Kingdom.**

A) Daniel 7:13,14 – Behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

God The Father, formally, presents the kingdom to Jesus Christ. This is the kingdom which was given to Adam, but which he forfeited to Satan – (Gen.1:26-28; Matt. 4:8-10; and John 14:30)

## **V. The Marriage of the Lamb.**

Jesus gave a parable in Matt. 22:1-14, concerning the King's Son, which might, be considered as prophetic of this event.

A) Eph. 1:3-12 – points out that this marriage of the " Lamb " was planned, by God, before the foundation of the world. That it is the consummation of His plan for His Son, and the attention focuses upon the Lamb rather than the bride. If Christ had not suffered as a man, he could not have entered into this union; but since He is the " MAN n Christ Jesus, the marriage will take place.

B) Rev. 19:7-9 – Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of Saints. And he saith to me, write, Blessed are they which are called unto the MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB.

C) John 14:2,3 – I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare, a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also. Christ is away now, preparing a place for His bride, the church.

D) Rev. 21:2,9,10 – more concerning this place the Lord is preparing for His bride. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

E) Verse 9 – one of the angels said, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

F) Rev. 22:17 – the bride teams with the Spirit to extend an invitation to whosoever will to come into that city and live with The Lamb and His Bride.

## **VI. The Revelation Of Jesus Christ**

A) Matt. 24:29,30 – says in part: Immediately after the tribulation of those days . . . then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, . . . and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

B) Matt. 25:31 – When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: . . .

C) 2 Thess. 1:7-10 – The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, to be admired in all them that believe in that day.

D) Malachi 4:2 – But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; . . .

E) Rev. 19:11-16 – And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

## **Chapter Twenty** **A Basic Study On Revelation** **The Binding Of Satan**

John saw an angel come down from Heaven on an errand for The Lord, commissioned to open the under world, bind Satan and lock him in the abyss for one thousand years, The same bottomless pit (chapter 9:1-11) from which came the locust that tormented ungodly men for five months. Satan, who has deceived the peoples of this world since the beginning of time (Matt. 24: 4,5), will be removed from influencing anyone for 1000 years After that he will be freed for a short time.

Mankind has always said," If we were free of the influence of Satan and the ungodly systems of this world (the two Babylons) , we could live for God ". So now, God will free the world of these things and see if man will do right.

Then John saw all those people who had received God's Word, had believed on The Lord Jesus Christ and had refused anti-christ; as they were given positions in the Kingdom of our Lord, to judge and rule with The Lord for one thousand years. This is a picture of all the redeemed of all ages, including The Bride, the martyrs and all others who have part in the first resurrection; for Christ is going to take the government of the entire world and we will be His assistants.

The ungodly dead remain in the grave and hell during this time; but Blessed and Holy are those who come forth in the first resurrection to be priests, judges and governors under Christ for one thousand years. During this time life will continue on this earth much as we know it now, except there will be no false worship and the government will function on principals of righteousness, with all authority vested in Christ The King.

After man has had one thousand years free of the power of Satan and under a perfect government, Satan will be set free again to see if man has learned anything. Although outwardly man has appeared content and pleased with things, inwardly he is still rebellious and many turn to and follow Satan in another attack on God and God's people. Once more the battlefield is just outside Jerusalem but God quickly destroys them

with fire from Heaven and Satan is sent to join the anti-christ and false prophet in the lake of eternal fire. Now John sees The Great White Throne and Christ The Judge, ready to pass final judgment on the ungodly dead. All who failed to accept God and His Christ will be there for they, too, are resurrected as the graves give up the bodies along with those in the sea and hell gives up the souls.

The Book of Life was opened but none of these are found written there. Other books are opened, records of all deeds by all people and each person is judged by the deeds he has done in this life. The things men thought no one knew about are recorded there for nothing can be hidden from that all seeing eye.

All these ungodly dead, now resurrected, are cast into the lake of fire (eternal punishment); a literal burning hell. No longer needed death and hell are also thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Only two destinations – with Christ in Heaven – with Satan in the lake of fire – and both are for eternity.

Between chapters 20 and 21 God does something to take away all trace of sin from this world and it's atmosphere. There are two theories as to what happens, so far as I know. One theory says this earth and atmosphere is completely destroyed and replaced with new ones. The other says this earth and atmosphere is renovated or burned with fire and then renewed as it was before Adam and Eve sinned.

Either way chapter 21 reveals a New Heaven, a New Earth and a New Jerusalem. God will take care of the method by which all things are made new.

## **Chapter Twenty-One**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **The New Heaven And New Earth**

A New Heaven, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem with no more oceans – after the thousand year reign of Christ – the final battle of Gog and Magog (all rebellious peoples) – after all trace or taint of sin has been forever removed from this earth and it's atmosphere.

Everything is new and under the Perfect Will of God. God comes with the New Jerusalem to make His residence on this earth and be with His people. The New Jerusalem is the place that Jesus told us he was going to prepare for us. The mind of mortal man cannot possibly understand the beauty and greatness of this wonderful city.

John gave the best description he could but we may be sure the half has not been told. Almost 1400 miles square and no need of a place to worship for the Lord Jesus Christ will be present with us there. There will be no need for the light of the Sun, for the Glory of God and The Lamb will give continuous eternal light.

All peoples of the New Earth will bring honor and glory into the New Jerusalem in worship and honor to God and The Lamb. All those whose names are recorded in The Lamb's Book of Life will be there.

## **Chapter Twenty-Two**

### **A Basic Study On Revelation**

### **In Blessings**

Genesis 2:9,10 – The tree of life, watered by the river of life, was given to Adam and Eve in the garden, for it was God's plan that man should live forever in close fellowship with his maker. However man allowed Satan to deceive him, and man of his own will entered into a state of rebellion against God. Since the wages of sin is death, man was expelled from the garden and the door was closed to the river of the waters of life and the fruit on the tree of life.

Ezekiel 47:1-12 – Ezekiel was shown the river of the waters of life, but the door was closed, access was denied mankind because of sin. Yet, even under this condition, God made it possible for those who will come His way to reach the water of life. This water of life flows from the throne of God, for He is the only source of life. The waters issued from under the east door(symbolic of Jesus Christ). Ezekiel was taken out the north door(symbolic of God), thus showing that it is through the love and grace of God that man find Christ.

Having found this small stream of waters of life, if the believer will follow on toward the east (toward Jesus Christ), the stream becomes deeper and wider, until at last it is a bountiful supply of the water of life. Indicating that even during these times of gross sin there is always a supply of life for those who will turn to and accept The Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22 reveals this river as the free gift of God, flowing from the throne of God and The Lamb. A pure river, clear as crystal, of the waters of life with the trees of life on each side, providing a continuous and abundant supply of young, strong, robust, healthy life – the way that God intended man should live.

We are admonished to live by the things found in this book of Revelation, verse 7.

We are told to study this book for the time is at hand, verse 10.

Verses 18 and 19 warn that he who fails to believe this book, as it is, will lose out completely with God.

God has made all provision for our future, the rest is up to us.

#### **24 of many signs of His second coming.**

1. Deceptions – (verses 4,5,11,24).
2. False christs – (verse 5,23-26).
3. Wars and rumors of wars – (v6-7).
4. Famines – (v 7; and Rev. 6:5-6).
5. Pestilences – (v 7, and Rev. 6:8).

6. Earthquakes – (v 7, and Rev. 6:12-17).
7. Anti-semitism – (v 9, and Mk. 13:9,13).
8. Offences – (v 10, and Mt. 18:1-10).
9. Betrayals – (v 9, and Mk.13:12).
10. Hatred – (v 10, and 2 Tim-3:1-9).
11. False prophets – (v 11, and 24. Rev. 13).
12. Lawlessness abounding – (v 12).
13. Love decreasing – (v 12-13, and 2 Tim. 3).
14. Increased missionary work – (v 14).
15. Abomination of desolation – (v 15; Dan. 9:27; 2 Tim. 2:4, and Rev. 13).
16. New Jewish nation in Judea – (v 9; 15-26; Ezek. 37, and Dan. 9:27).
17. New Jewish Temple – (v15, 26; Rev11:1-2; Dan 8:9-13; 9:27;11:45; 2 Tim. 2:4).
18. Great Tribulations of 32 years – (v 21; Dan. 12:1; Rev. 12:1, 19:21).
19. Martyrdoms – (v 9, 22; Dan. 8:21; Rev. 7:9-17, 11:7, 15:2-4, 20:4-6).
20. Flight of Jews from Judea – (v 16-21; Rev.12:6,14; Isa.16:1-5; Ps. 60:4-8; Dan. 11:40-45; Ezek.20:33-38, and Hos. 2:14-16).
21. Increased satanic powers – (v 24; 2 Tim. 2:8-12; Rev.13,16:14,19:20).
22. Surfeiting – (v 38, Lk. 17:28, 21:34).
23. Sex crimes – (v 38, Lk. 17:2).
24. Procrastination and lethargy – (v 39).

Matthew 25:31-46 shows the judgment of nations following the second advent, after the battle of Armageddon, as Christ sets up His Government over this world.

As we observe the prevalence of these conditions in the world all about us, perhaps we should once again, concentrate our attention on the next great happening in the affairs of The Church. For the born-again Christian, our great hope is The Rapture, or translation of the body of believers to be with The Lord; There are no signs to announce this event directly but the signs pointing to the second advent of Christ are numerous and the rapture must take place at least seven years before the second advent. Thus The Rapture could take place any day.

It might do us all good to reread:

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

Hebrews 9:28

-end-